

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FOLL MSG SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE FROM KARACHI
SEP 5 REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1816

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECRE, PK

SUBJECT: INDUS RIVER FLOW IN SIND FOLLOWING TARBELA CRISIS

SUMMARY: TARBELA DAM CRISIS AND SUBSEQUENT DRAINING
OF ITS RESERVOIR WILL CAUSE NO FLOOD DAMAGE IN SIND.
ACCORDING PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS CONCERNED, MILD FLOOD
PEAK WILL REACH PRINCIPAL UPPER SIND BARRAGE AT SUKKUR
ABOUT SEPT. 7 AND LOWER SIND BARRAGE AT KOTRI SOME THREE
DAYS LATER. WATER STORED IN TARBELA RESERVOIR WOULD
HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN EFFECTING INCREASE IN SIND RABI
(WINTER) CROP. OWING TO PRESENT OUTFLOW, THIS CROP WILL
PROBABLY NOT SHOW INCREASES WHICH HAD BEEN HOPED FOR.
ASIDE FROM IMMEDIATE TARBELA DISCHARGE, INDUS FLOW
TO SIND FROM NORTHERN CATCHMENT AREAS THIS YEAR IS
LOWEST SINCE AT LEAST 1970. END SUMMARY.

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1. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN SIND DEPT IRRIGATION AND POWER, WITH WHOM CONGENOFF SPOKE ON SEPT 5, STATE THAT INDUS FLOW HAS BEEN RISING EVENLY AND STEADILY AT SUKKUR BARRAGE OVER LAST WEEK AND HAS NOW REACHED 241 THOUSAND CUSECS DOWNSTREAM FROM HEAD WORKS. THEY EXPECT INDUS TO PEAK AT SUKKUR AT MILD FLOOD LEVEL ABOUT SEPT 7. SOME 200 MILES DOWNSTREAM AT KOTRI BARRAGE NEAR HYDERABAD, GOS OFFICIALS EXPECT PEAK TO BE REACHED ABOUT THREE DAYS LATER BUT AT MUCH LOWER FLOW LEVEL SINCE GOOD PART OF WATER COMING DOWNSTREAM BEING DRAWN OFF NORMALLY INTO CANAL SYSTEMS AT SUKKUR AND GUDDU BARRAGES. HENCE, GOS OFFICIALS SEE ALMOST NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY FLOOD DAMAGE. IN FACT THEY REPORT THAT ANTICIPATED PEAK FLOW WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT EVEN FOR MILD OVERFLOW OF BUNDS INTO KUTCHA LAND WHICH WOULD HAVE HELPED RABI CROP IN THOSE AREAS. THEY SEE PRINCIPAL EFFECT ON SIND AGRICULTURE OF TARBELA DAM CRISIS AND CONSEQUENT DRAINING OF RESERVOIR AS ELIMINATION OF INCREASED WATER SUPPLY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE DURING RABI CROP SEASON. THEY THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT RABI CROP MAY BE SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN PLANNERS HAD ANTICIPATED, BUT NOT NECESSARILY LOWER THAN NORMAL IN PRE-TARBELA DAYS.

2. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL CONDITION OF INDUS THIS YEAR, GOS OFFICIALS STATE THAT RIVER FLOW DUE TO RAIN IN CATCHMENT AREAS AND MELTING SNOW HAS BEEN THE LOWEST SINCE AT LEAST 1970, IF NOT LONGER. MOST RIVER FLOW FROM MELTING SNOW IN NORTHERN MOUNTAINS ALREADY TOOK PLACE DURING SPRING AND RAINY SEASON IN CATCHMENT AREAS NOW NEARLY OVER WITH GENERALLY LOW RAINFALL EXPERIENCED SO FAR. HENCE, BARRING EXTRAORDINARY OUT-OF-SEASON RAINS IN NORTH, SIND OFFICIALS SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF FLOODS FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR.

3. EMBASSY TRANSMIT ABOVE AS DESIRED TO WASHINGTON.
TIGER
UNQUOTE BYROADE

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